

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND SUGGESTED IDEALIZATIONS OF A U.S. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM

I. Background

In the present cold-war world, reconnaissance and intelligence are more important to the United States by many orders of magnitude than ever before. Specifically, the American economy cannot afford to spend generously as an insurance factor — to prepare, without adequate knowledge, to counter everything the Soviet Union might conceivably have. This results not only in the need for major U.S. military forces-in-being, but in the critical requirement for intelligence about the enemy's strength, his weakness, his plans or intentions. Such intelligence is needed not only to match the Soviet on our own terms but to show us where to concentrate our strength, where to plug gaps, where to ignore Soviet preparations, how to conserve our economic resources and to keep fit for the long-term struggle.

II. The Role of Photographic Intelligence

The task of photographic intelligence is to substantially provide information required to prepare estimates, to enable plans to be formulated, operations to be staged and the results to be evaluated. At the outbreak of war, photo intelligence assumes the major responsibility for obtaining the required intelligence, which other techniques to that date have not been able to produce, and for which exists an urgent necessity in preparing estimates or plans and executing operations. In this attempt to suggest an idealized form of a U.S. photographic intelligence system, present world conditions, U.S. photographic operations, capabilities and requirements serve as the major terms of reference. Major changes in any of these would probably require changes in the system.

III. Suggested Idealizations

Suggestions for the establishment of new functions or improvement of present practices are here listed individually as idealized components which collectively could result in substantial improvements in the U.S. photographic intelligence system.* Generally, the suggestions may be divided into two

*Hereafter generally intended to mean the collective result of U.S. manpower, equipment, techniques, and current operations in the photo-intelligence field.

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